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BOOK NOTICES

Japanese Expansion and American Policies.

By James Francis Abbott. New York: Macmillan, 1915. \$1.50 net.

This is a much-needed book. It should be read by all leaders of public opinion and by all conscientious voters. Most of us are so completely occupied with our own little, narrow, selfish concerns that we do not see the vital connections of those concerns with the larger concerns of the whole world.

One of the points at which we are in great danger of being misled is in our relations with Japan. There are real problems. But, fortunately, we are able through numerous well-informed popular books by competent authorities, to get with comparative ease the material out of which to make up our own minds.

This book is one of the best. Its author was for some time instructor in the imperial Japanese naval academy. He is accordingly posted on the military side. His pages all show, too, wide and sympathetic knowledge of diplomatic history. Moreover, and what is very necessary, he is himself built on a large plan. So without being for or against Japan, or, indeed, for or against any of the nations involved in his discussion, without blinking any of the problems that arise, squarely facing facts that come up from all sides, he puts the whole case in a nutshell, clearly and concisely.

Most of us are very ignorant of oriental affairs and of our vital relations to them. But if we are going to do the best thing just for ourselves—putting it on the lowest ground—it is as clear as noonday that we must begin somewhere to be intelligent. Now, Mr. Abbott's book is a good introduction to the whole oriental situation. Japan is central. In tracing the growth of Japan in her numerous and varied relations, he passes in review most of the pivotal points in which China, Korea, Russia, Europe, England, and America are concerned. He deals with facts and lets facts do the talking. If motives are in evidence, it is because they were first in the facts, and a scientific treatment of the facts brings them into the light. Thus the reader comes to the end of the volume with a broadened and clarified sense of justice, and with the appalling consciousness that unless justice can prevail the outlook is dark enough.

Let us not, then, for a moment, in our smug complacency, suppose that a clash in the Far East is not going to affect us in the Far West. No man any longer can live to himself alone. Professor Abbott suggests many thoughtful, feasible, just, first steps towards the avoidance of the clash, and these suggestions deserve careful attention.

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chaps

I-XXXIX. In the Revised Version, with Introduction and Notes. (The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges.) By J. Skinner. Cambridge: University Press, 1915. Pp. lxxxv+314. 3s.

The first edition of this commentary appeared in 1896 and has been several times reprinted. The present edition has been completely reset and largely rewritten. The most marked change is from the text of the Authorized Version to that of the Revised Version. This carries with it the total disregard of the poetic form of the prophetic literature which characterizes the Revised Version. The Introduction to the book has undergone a thorough overhauling, the history of Isaiah's times is rewritten, and a new section is added on Egypt's relations with Palestine. New judgments and points of view continually present themselves. A much more definite position is taken to the effect that Azri-Yahu of Ya'udi was not Azariah of Judah. A more sympathetic attitude toward the political program of Ahaz is manifest. Sô, king of Egypt, is identified with Sibir of Musri rather than with Shabako. The date of Hezekiah's accession is changed from 727 to 720 B.C. An exposition and criticism of the theory that Sennacherib twice invaded Judah is now added. The Immanuel prophecy in Isa., chap. 7, is reinterpreted and its explanation found in the view that Isaiah and his hearers alike had in mind the common oriental expectation of a coming messiah. Isaiah expected the fulfilment of that hope in connection with the Syro-Ephraimitish war. On the whole, this edition evinces a much more historical point of view and spirit than its predecessor. It is now second to none as a popular, yet reliable, interpretation of Isa., chaps. 1-39.

Personal Religion. By Charles Herbert Rust.

Boston: Gorham Press, 1915. Pp. 279. \$1.25.

Mr. Rust reflects, in these addresses, his fundamental interest in an honest and warm-hearted ministry of evangelism. He believes that it is possible for a Christian, today, to face the facts of life fairly and yet maintain a faith in God and truth which will be truly contagious and uplifting. The message of this book would be immeasurably strengthened if the author were to carry his study of New Testament sources farther, and if he felt that he could dispense with the remnants of a conservative theology which serve only to obscure the meaning of our great Christian convictions.